

Message Text

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17

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APPROVED BY L/OES - RONALD J. BETTAUER

EA/VN - MR. FINNEY

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----- 104044

R 121929Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS POUCH TO NICE FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS, FR

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT

QTE

R 062347Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMCONSUL ZURICH

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDEL JEC PARIS

XMT USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

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USMISSION OECD PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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FOLLOWING GENEVA 3096 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO SAIGON
MAY 17TH.

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QTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 3096

E.O. LL652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS
SUBJECT; ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS
REF: GENEVA 3078 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ICRC NOTE DATED MAY 17, 1974
INVITING GOVERNMENTS TO SEND EXPERTS TO CONFERENCE ON
WEAPONS SCHEDULED FOR PERIOD SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 18
IN LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND QUOTE:
THE XXIIND INTERN8,IONAL CONFERENCE ON THE RED CROSS
(TEHERAN, NOVEMBER 1973), IN RESOLUTION XIV, INVITED TE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TO CALL IN 1974
A CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS TO STUDY IN DEPTH THE
QUESTION OF PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF THE USE OF
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY CAUSE UNNECESSARY
SUFFERING OR

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HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS, AND TO TRANSMIT A REPORT ON THE
THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE TO ALL GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPAT-
ING IN THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW
HELD IN GENEVA WITH A VIEW TO ASSISTING THEM IN THEIR
FURTHER DELIBERATIONS. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS HAS NOTED THIS RESOLUTION (A/RES/3076(XXV
IIL(X).

ON ACCEPTING THIS MANDATE ON WEAPONS, TE ICRC
STATED THAT IT COUNTED ON THE ASSISTANLE OF STATES TO
SOLVE THE PROBLEMS TO WHICH THE ORGANIZATION OF SUCH A
CONFERENCE GAVE RISE AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO ENSURE THAT
THE COSTS OF ORGANIZING THE CONFERENCE, WHICH COULD IN NO
CASE BE BORNE BY THE ICRC'S BUDGET, WOULD BE MET.

THE RECENT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON NTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW (GENEVA, 20 FEBRUARY TO 29 MARCH 1974)
SET UP AN QTE AD HOC COMMITTEE UNQTE, THE ICRC HAD
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SUBMITTED A PLAN ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE
ON WEAPONS. AFTER NOTING THE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS
OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES PARTICIPATING IN THE DIPLOMATIC
CONFERENCE, THE ICRC CONFIRMED ON 25 MARCH 1974 THAT IT
WAS PREPARED TO CONVENE THE CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS AT
LUCERNE. THE ICRC DREW ATTENTION, HOWEVER, TO THE FACT
THAT THE EXECUTION OF THIS PROJECT DEPENDED ON FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENTS.

WHILE THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PLEDGED SO FAR DO
NOT ENTIRELY COVER THE COST OF THE CONFERENCE, ESTIMATED
AT 500,000 SWISS FRANCS, THE ICRC 4 S DECIDED TO CALL IT
AND HAS SELECTED THE PERIOD FROM 24 SEPTEMBER TO 18
OCTOBER RATHER THAN THE MONTH OF JUNE ORIGINALLY
CONTEMPLATED. THE ICRC HOPES THAT THOSE GOVERNMENTS
WHICH HAVE NOT YET ANNOUNCED THE AMOUNT THEY PROPOSE TO

CONTRIBUTE WILL DO SO IN THE MEANTIME. THE ICRC FOR ITS PART INTENDS TO USE THE EXTRA THREE MONTHS FOR COMPLETING PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE.

ATTACHED HERETO ARE THE PROGRAMME OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AS APPROVED BY THE QTE AD HOC COMMITTEE UNQTE OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE, A NOTE CONTAINING TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE, AND FORMS FOR THE BOOKING OF ROOMS. THE ICRC REQUESTS THAT THESE FORMS BE SENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, AND IN

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ANY CASE BY 31 JULY AT THE LATEST, TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED.

WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE, THE ICRC, AS MAY BE SEEN FROM THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ATTACHED HERETO, HAS ACTED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE.

HOWEVER, THE ICRC HAS BEEN APPROACHED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, WITH A VIEW THAT IT SHOULD ACCEPT THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS NOMINATED BY GOVERNMENTS OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OTHER BODIES WHICH WERE NOT REPRESENTED AT THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, IN PARTICULAR THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM.

THE ICRC IS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN THE UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION AND APPLICATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OF THE RULES OF HUMANITARIAN LAW. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS NATURAL THAT IT SHOULD SUPPORT THE IDEA TO INCLUDE THE LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS AND AUTHORITIES ON WHOM THIS APPLICATION MAY DEPEND IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE ELABORATION OF NEW RULES OF HUMANITARIAN LAW, AND IT IS PREPARED TO SEND INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUESTS ADDRESSED TO IT.

BUT IT WAS APPARENT FROM THE DISCUSSIONS THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE THAT THE QUESTION OF INVITATIONS IS OF A HIGHLY POLITICAL CHARACTER, AND IT IS THE ICRC'S CONVICTION THAT IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO ITS MISSION TO BE INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL CONTROVERSIES IN WHICH GOVERNMENTS ARE OPPOSED AND WHICH CAN ONLY BE SETTLED BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.

IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, AS THE CONFERENCE OF

EXPERTS ON WEAPONS IS LINKED, BY RESOLUTION XIV ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AT TEHERAN IN NOVEMBER 1973, TO THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND IS ITSELF A CONTINUATION OF THE LATTER, THE ICRC CONSIDERS THAT IT CANNOT JUST SIMPLY GO AGAINST DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, WHERE THE QUESTION OF INVITATIONS IS CONCERNED. ACCORDINGLY, THE ICRC REQUESTS GOVERNMENTS TO LET IT KNOW IN WRITING, BEFORE 31 JULY 1974, IF THEY ARE IN FAVOUR OR NOT OF THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS MONINATED BY THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY

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GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM OR BY OTHER BODIES WHICH HAD NOT TAKEN PART IN THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE. THE ICRC WILL STAND BY THE WISHES EXPRESSED BY A MAJORITY OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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REPLIES SENT TO IT.

ANY OBSERVATIONS RELATIVE TO THE COMPOSITION OR TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BEFORE 31 JULY 1974 DIRECT TO THE ICRC, AS THE CONFERENCE, BY ITS VERY NATURE, IS NOT COMPETENT TO DISCUSS SUCH QUESTIONS.

THE ICRC WOULD ALSO BE GLAD TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE NAMES OF THE EXPERTS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED IN ORDER THAT IT MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE ALL NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE. UNQTE.

2. THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF ABOVE NOTE WITH ATTACHMENTS, I.E., PROGRAM OF CONFERENCE, RULES OF PROCEDURE AND A PAPER ENTITLED QTE USEFUL INFORMATION UNQTE BEING POUCHED. ABRAMS UNQTE KISSINGER

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